

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

Released: September 18, 2006
Week ending: September 17, 2006
Volume: 25-06

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Weather: It was a cooler, wetter week throughout the State. High temperatures ranged from 93 degrees in Medford, down to 64 degrees in Crescent City. Outside of the coastal areas, highs were generally in the mid to upper 80's. Low temperatures ranged from 48 degrees in Portland, down to 24 degrees in Christmas Valley and Worden. Moisture was reported all across the State, with only four stations not reporting any measurable precipitation (Pendleton, The Dalles, Christmas Valley, and the Klamath Falls AgriMet Station). Joseph reported the greatest accumulation of 0.60 inches. Days of precipitation ranged from 1 to 3 days.

Field Crops: A cold front during the later part of last week brought needed precipitation to the State, aiding fall wheat seeding. However, more rain is needed to help winter wheat growers with fall seeding. Fall field preparation continued throughout most of the State. Hop harvest was finishing up. Harvest of Red clover for seed continued. Some eastern area field work was temporarily at a stand still due to high winds. Red clover seed continued to be harvested in Washington County. High humidity and scattered rains helped decrease the forest fire danger in Malheur County.

Vegetables: Jackson County growers continued to harvest corn, tomatoes, green peppers, squash, and cucumbers. Pumpkins were harvested in Benton, Linn, and Lane counties. The pumpkin and melon crops in Douglas County needed some fungicides due to the cooler, wet weather. Carrots for seed harvest continued in Jefferson County. Klamath growers were preparing to harvest

potatoes. Umatilla harvest was two-thirds complete with yields lower than the past few years.

Fruits and Nuts: Overall grapes were doing well as sugar content continued to rise to desired levels. Strawberries and blueberries were done. Apples, peaches, and pears continued to be harvested. There was still concern about the lack of growing degree days in the Coos Bay area. There was concern that the lack of heat could delay cranberry harvest. Prunes were behind schedule, but should finish within a few days. Filbert and chestnuts continued to fall.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Still lots of watering required for both nurseries and greenhouses. Nurseries were busy with fall preparation and planting of new nursery stock for future harvest. Greenhouses now busy with fall plants, both decorative and fall vegetables, mostly cabbage and broccoli. Good turn out for the annual Nursery Research field day.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Scattered, light precipitation helped pastures in some western areas of the State. Most pastures continued to need rain for conditions to improve. Irrigation continued on pastures with facilities available. Livestock on dryland pastures were getting supplemental feed in many areas. Producers began preparing to move cattle down from higher elevation rangeland. The season's first snow was reported in some of these areas. Livestock remained in good condition throughout the State.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 09/17/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	39	39	22	0
Subsoil	42	34	24	0

Crop Condition-Week Ending 09/17/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range and pasture	33	21	35	11	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 09/17/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	82	71	-	-
Winter wheat planted	21	10	7	4
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.6	7.0	-	-

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: Field work is coming along well for farmers in the Willamette Valley. The weather has been unseasonably warm and very dry. Grass farmer's yields were average for this year and the apple growers got a bumper crop. Grass seed fields are being prepared for 2007. Blueberries and strawberries are done. Blackberries are still going. Powdery mildew is showing up in grapes. The crop looks mediocre to good. Asian pears are being harvested. Peaches are finishing up. Prunes are finishing very late this year. Apples continue to be harvested. Hazelnut early harvest has started. Looks like a large crop. Tomatoes are ripening slowly. Pumpkins are being harvested. Greenhouse and nursery crop sales are slow.

COLUMBIA: Rainy pattern or at least cooler. Should help pastures without unduly affecting farm work.

COOS/CURRY: Temperatures were near normal for the week for Coos and northern Curry, with a high temperature in Southern Curry of 84.9 degrees. About 0.25 inches of rain fell in the area. Some cranberry growers are concerned about the lack of "growing degrees" - cool and foggy or cloudy weather in the mornings and not warming until afternoon, just in time to cool down with the evening breezes. The lack of heat may delay some harvests. Brookings (South Curry): The low temperature for the period was 46.55 degrees, 3.64 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 84.9 degrees, 13.82 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.30 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2001-2004) average of 0.29 inches. Precipitation for the Weather year stands at 107.33 inches, 40.03 inches above the 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004). The historical average (through August) is 71.53 inches precipitation. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 44.96 degrees, 0.79 degrees above the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 66.31 degrees, 1.47 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.29 inches compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) of 0.34 inches. The weather year precipitation stands at 69.42 inches, 21.04 inches above the 5-year average (including 4 drought years, 2001 – 2004). The historical average is 58.74 inches through August.

DOUGLAS: Cool evenings and cloudy weather are slowing down, tree fruit ripening and causing some concern for late season fungal infections in grape crops and prunes. Prune harvest about 40 percent complete, and should be done by September 20. Vegetable crops are finishing. Pumpkin and melon crops still needing some fungicides with cooler wet weather.

JACKSON: Still some second cutting of grass hay made, but some light rain showers got some a bit damp. With some care, it should still be ok. More ground preparation for fall planting.

Apple, pear, and peach harvests are in full swing. Wine grapes will soon be ready as sugar levels come up to desired levels. Some fall strawberries still being picked and are mostly U-Pick. Still lot of vegetables being harvested, mostly corn, tomatoes, green peppers, and squash. Also still lots of cucumbers. Greenhouses now busy with fall plants, both decorative and fall vegetables, (mostly cabbage and broccoli). Nursery stock for fall planting is being made ready. Lots of watering also for both nurseries and greenhouses. All livestock on good pastures are in good shape, but lots of irrigation to keep pastures coming on. It will soon be time to start bringing cattle down from higher ranges. Early in the week it was quite warm, and good haying weather, but by Friday, we were a lot cooler and had some scattered showers. It was some help, but really not adequate to get fall pastures started. We still need some more rain. Some haying, fruit, and vegetables are being harvested. Temperatures are getting the feel of fall. Shorter daylight days, and cooler nights. Even a bit more dew on the grass now.

JOSEPHINE: It finally rained, although only a little. Cool nights and warm days, a wonderful Indian Summer. Grapes are sugaring up, winter squash is ripening, lots of tomatoes, corn, melons etc. Cleaning up gardens, planting bulbs, putting away summer toys, tools and garden ornaments. Still no killing frost, still pretty early.

MARION: Showers this week but not enough. Cooler weather and the first rains of the season have arrived. Grass field pre-emergent applications are starting. Hops harvest finishing up.

POLK: Near ideal temperatures for farming, soil moisture level is low. Grapes are doing great, there is a concern of Botrytis with expected rain.

WASHINGTON: Clipping grass seed, fields prepared for winter. Field corn going to silos with weather cooperating, so far. Red clover for seed continued to be harvested. Late everbearing strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries are at markets. Filberts and chestnuts are falling. Walnuts are still sizing. Prunes are ready, pears are ripe, Asian pears ready, and peaches are ready, too. Sweet corn is going to the processor. Table beets continue to go to the processor. Setting out new very green nursery stock for future harvest. Nature buffalo and calves are looking good. All livestock is being fed supplemental feed. Field preparation for fall planting continues. The high temperature was 78 degrees, the low was 42 degrees, the high humidity was 74 percent, and the low was 34 percent. Six tenths of an inch of rain fell over a two day period. Partial sun and clouds for most of week. Good working conditions.

YAMHILL: Bartlett pear harvest is completed. Mid-season apple harvest continues. Late season peach harvest continues.

EASTERN OREGON

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Temperatures have dropped the last few days of this week, and on Friday there much needed sprinkle of rain to settle the dust. With the deeper moisture as good as it is, people are planting winter wheat a few weeks earlier this year. Thundershowers on Thursday slowed seeding progress in some areas, and raised concerns about soil crusting in fields that had already been seeded deep to reach moisture.

HOOD RIVER: Winter pear harvest continued in the lower and mid Hood River Valley, and began in lower Parkdale. Rain late in the week caused only slight disruptions to the harvest. There has been a general shortage of pickers.

JEFFERSON: Carrot harvest is about one-third completed. Cool temperatures are impeding harvest efforts.

KLAMATH: The weather turned cooler last week. Freezing temperatures recorded throughout the county. Snow was reported in higher elevations. The grain harvest is wrapping up. Preparation for potato harvest continues. Fall work is getting under way.

LAKE: Cool morning temperatures ranging from the mid 40's in the southern end to the mid 30's in the northern end. Majority of the week saw afternoon temperatures in the mid 80's. Cooled to the mid 60's over the weekend. Received precipitation in the form of rain, hail and snow towards the end of the week and over the weekend.

MALHEUR: A cold front during the last half of week dropped high temperatures 20 degrees. Higher humidity and scattered rain

showers helped with forest fires. All harvest and fall field work continues.

SHERMAN: This latest pattern of rain teasing is getting old. Wish it would just settle down and rain and "get 'er done with!" The wind came up hard one afternoon and shut down all field work. Too dusty and too much moisture loss. Wheat seeding continues as good seeding moisture persists. Expecting the rest of the County will be jump-started next week.

UMATILLA: Wheat is up and looking good so far in early seeded areas. Potato harvest about two thirds done. Yields below the past few years' yields. Hay prices are strong to very strong. Onion prices are jumping.

UNION: A cool front moved through at the end of the week bringing much relief from recent heat and a trace of precipitation.

WALLOWA: Cooler temperatures with rain and snow on Saturday helped firefighters get a handle on local fires. Harvest is complete. Low yields in dry land crops. Cooler weather forecasted for next week.

WASCO: The whole county is dry and needs rain for fall grain seeding. Winter wheat planting is at a stand still. Fuel and fertilizer prices continue way above normal and will be a factor again in next year's crop profits. Hay harvest is winding down for this season and fruit harvest continued. Pastures and ranges have reached a season low, and water is becoming short for all livestock. However, cattle are still holding their own. Rain would help all farm and ranch situations.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: September 17, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	44	73	57	-3	49	-12	0.20	-0.46	3	0.24	-1.19	17	4
Bandon ⁸	45	68	56	-2	43	-12	0.29	-0.08	2	0.29	-0.56	34	2
Crescent City	44	64	55	-5	33	-28	0.05	-0.33	1	0.06	-0.78	7	2
Florence	37	70	54	-7	30	-40	0.03	-0.51	1	0.03	-1.16	3	1
Tillamook	39	71	54	-4	32	-24	0.34	-0.53	3	0.39	-1.48	21	5
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	45	85	60	-3	70	-15	0.21	-0.21	2	0.22	-0.71	24	3
Corvallis	42	84	59	-4	62	-23	0.39	0.04	2	0.39	-0.38	51	2
Detroit Lake ⁸	41	89	59	+4	66	+16	0.44	-0.07	3	0.44	-0.71	38	3
Eugene	42	85	60	-4	74	-20	0.06	-0.33	1	0.07	-0.82	8	2
Hillsboro	41	85	59	-3	62	-17	0.18	-0.17	1	0.18	-0.62	23	1
McMinnville	44	86	60	-3	71	-14	0.33	-0.04	2	0.33	-0.49	40	2
Portland	48	84	62	-3	86	-11	0.22	-0.20	3	0.25	-0.72	26	4
Salem	45	85	60	-3	72	-13	0.04	-0.31	1	0.04	-0.74	5	1
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	44	92	64	-3	97	-11	0.13	-0.08	2	0.13	-0.30	30	2
Medford	44	93	65	-2	105	-7	0.04	-0.17	2	0.04	-0.43	9	2
Roseburg	45	88	63	-1	95	-4	0.29	0.01	2	0.31	-0.31	50	3
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	38	88	58	+0	58	+0	0.04	-0.13	2	0.04	-0.43	9	2
Echo ⁸	38	89	61	-3	79	-17	0.02	-0.09	2	0.02	-0.29	6	2
Heppner	41	89	60	-2	70	-10	0.07	-0.14	2	0.07	-0.36	16	2
Hermiston	37	89	62	-3	83	-13	0.02	-0.09	1	0.02	-0.29	6	1
John Day	36	91	59	-2	66	-4	0.14	-0.07	2	0.14	-0.37	27	2
Madras ⁸	34	88	56	-4	49	-18	0.02	-0.12	1	0.03	-0.31	9	2
Moro	34	85	57	-3	55	-15	0.24	0.10	2	0.24	-0.10	71	2
Parkdale ⁸	33	84	55	-6	42	-33	0.11	-0.17	2	0.11	-0.51	18	2
Pendleton	39	87	60	-4	74	-23	-	-0.14	-	0.02	-0.31	6	1
The Dalles	40	89	62	+3	89	+16	-	-0.14	-	-	-0.34	-	-
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	29	88	54	-2	39	-5	0.08	-0.06	2	0.08	-0.26	24	2
Bend	29	85	55	-2	46	-1	0.08	-0.06	2	0.08	-0.26	24	2
Burns	26	91	54	-2	43	-2	0.26	0.12	2	0.26	-0.08	76	2
Christmas Valley ⁸	24	90	51	-9	32	-38	-	-0.12	-	-	-0.32	-	-
Klamath Falls	33	88	56	-4	50	-20	0.05	-0.04	1	0.06	-0.23	21	2
Klamath Falls ⁸	32	89	56	-5	48	-22	-	-0.09	-	-	-0.29	-	-
Lakeview	27	88	54	-5	44	-15	0.07	-0.07	1	0.07	-0.27	21	1
Lorella ⁸	27	89	54	-7	39	-31	0.05	-0.04	2	0.05	-0.24	17	2
Redmond	25	89	54	-4	37	-20	0.15	0.07	1	0.15	-0.13	54	1
Worden ⁸	24	90	53	-7	37	-33	0.02	-0.07	1	0.12	-0.17	41	2
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	26	88	52	-6	34	-24	0.03	-0.15	2	0.05	-0.43	10	4
Joseph	31	80	52	-2	41	+6	0.60	0.29	2	0.67	-0.04	94	4
La Grande	30	88	55	-5	45	-30	0.02	-0.19	1	0.02	-0.52	4	1
Prairie City ⁸	29	87	53	+3	37	+8	0.24	-0.04	3	0.24	-0.44	35	3
Union	36	91	57	-2	57	-3	0.16	-0.09	2	0.16	-0.49	25	2
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	37	90	61	-4	76	-20	0.05	-0.09	3	0.05	-0.29	15	3
Rome	26	92	56	-5	57	-18	0.03	-0.11	1	0.03	-0.31	9	1

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2006.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.